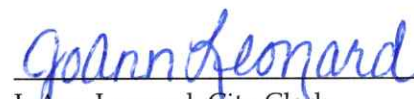


MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
June 08, 2026

1. Mayor Keeler called the special meeting to order at 5:30PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
3. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele (5:40pm), and Councilmembers Green and Wisnaski.
Absent: Councilmember Keeney (6:49pm).
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Green, to excuse Councilmembers Keeney and Steele from the proceedings. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
4. Approval of Agenda:
A motion by Wisnaski, seconded by Green, to approve the agenda for the Budget Workshop as presented. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
5. New Business:
6. Financial Director/Treasurer Wilcox and City Manager Lakamper gave an overview of the 2026/2027 City Budget to Council. Apart from the General Fund, all funds balance or have a planned deficit due to capital improvement projects. The General Fund was discussed in detail, noting that the operational deficit projected in the budget remains one of the biggest challenges facing the city. City Manager Lakamper noted that the General Fund is the only fund that has a structural deficit, meaning that year after year, more money is paid out than what is brought in. Property tax revenue increased about 2.7%. Fees increased for Recycling and Bulk Pick-up services due to fuel surcharges raising, and health insurance rates went up 17%. Water and Sewer rates will be adjusted following the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 4.7% this year. After a detailed review of the different departments inside the General Fund, there was discussion concerning Public Safety, noting that it is the City's largest cost with over 50% of the General Fund going toward fire and police. Water and Sewer funds were discussed along with planned projects for the upcoming year. Well 7 will have a complete overhaul, and several fire hydrants will be replaced. Industrial Park will be repaved and North and South Main Street will be chip-sealed and striped using Major and Local Streets funding. During repaving in Industrial Park, a section of water main will be replaced using funds from Water and Sewer. City Manager Lakamper discussed options available to the City to offset the General Fund deficit. As Public Safety is a large part of the budget a Public Safety Mileage should be considered. The land sales in Industrial Park provided one time cash influxes to the City's General Fund, but now those sales are now complete. The City has run a deficit in the General Fund for years, and Lakamper stressed that this needs to be addressed. Financial Director/Treasurer Wilcox went on to give an overview of all the other city funds, commenting on each.
7. Public Comment: None.
8. Staff Comments: Superintendent Nieuwenhuis commented that each year we hear about budget constraints, and each year we all do our best to work with what we have. Staff retire or leave and aren't replaced, equipment replacement gets pushed until next year and projects aren't able to be completed. He notes that we all want Plainwell to succeed and be a great place to live and hopes that together we can find ways to address the deficit.
9. Council Comments: None.
10. Adjournment:
A motion by Green, seconded by Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard
City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
June 22, 2026


JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk